AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (cancelled)

Claim 2 (previously presented) The process according to Claim 14, wherein the ion exchanger used is an anion exchanger.

Claim 3 (previously presented) The process according to Claim 2, wherein the ion exchanger used is a weakly basic anion exchanger.

Claim 4 (previously presented) The process according to claim 14, wherein the metal salt is a transition metal salt.

Claim 5 (previously presented) The process according to Claim 4, wherein the transition metal salt is an iron(III) salt.

Claim 6 (previously presented) The process according to claim 14, wherein the radical of the organic acid is a radical of a sulphonic acid.

Claim 7 (previously presented) The process according to claim 5, wherein the transition metal salt is Fe(III) p-toluenesulphonate, Fe(III) o-toluenesulphonate or a mixture of Fe(III) p-toluenesulphonate and Fe(III) o-toluenesulphonate.

Claim 8 (previously presented) The process according to claim 14, wherein the process is carried out in the presence of one or more solvent(s).

Claim 9 (previously presented) The Process according to claim 8, wherein the solvent or solvents used is/are one or more alcohol(s), water or a mixture of one or more alcohol(s) and water.

Claim 10 (previously presented) The process according to claim 9, wherein said alcohol(s) is/are butanol, ethanol or methanol.

Claim 11 (previously presented) The process according to claim 8, wherein the oxidant is separated from the solvent after treatment with the ion exchanger and optionally is redissolved in the same solvent or another solvent.

Claim 12 (cancelled)

Claim 13 (previously presented) The process according to Claim 14, wherein said oxidant is present in solution and the solution has a water content of from 0 to 10% by weight based on the total weight of the solution.

Claim 14 (currently amended) A process for the oxidative polymerization of precursors for the preparation of conductive polymers, the process comprising:

providing a metal salt of an organic acid or an inorganic acid having organic radicals;

preparing an oxidant by contacting the metal salt with an ion exchanger; ~~and~~

mixing the oxidant with at least one conductive polymer precursor for preparing at least one conductive polymer; and

separating the ion exchanger from the oxidant before mixing the oxidant with the at least one conductive polymer precursor.

Claims 15-75 (cancelled)

Claim 76 (cancelled)

Claim 77 (currently amended) The process according to claim 76, wherein the separation of the oxidant from the ion exchanger is accomplished by passing a solution of the metal salt through a column containing the ion exchanger, or bringing the metal salt, a solvent and the ion exchanger together in a vessel followed by separating of the ion exchanger from the oxidant.